What is Clear Lens Extraction?

Clear lens extraction (CLE) is similar to cataract surgery. Both involve the removal of the eye’s natural lens, replacing it with a synthetic lens implant. In most cases, the synthetic lens corrects for distance vision, usually requiring a pair of reading glasses for close work. This procedure may be used for patients who have farsightedness or nearsightedness combined with astigmatism.

**PROS:**
- CLEs are an excellent alternative for patients who are not eligible for laser surgery.
- The surgery corrects high myopia (nearsightedness) and high hyperopia (farsightedness) and also corrects refractive errors that are out of the range of laser surgery and phakic IOLs.
- You will no longer develop a cataract later in life as the lens has been removed and replaced by a clear implant to improve your vision. There is less chance of regression, unlike LASIK surgery.
- You will experience minimal postoperative discomfort. Both eyes are performed the same day.
- Recovery is quick.

**CONS:**
- You might lose your ability to accommodate; you may need reading glasses for near vision such as over the counter glasses (readers).
- CLE is more invasive than laser refractive surgery; it is done in the operating room with topical and/or IV sedation.
- It is not covered under health insurance plans.